

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the current claims with those formerly on record:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring the evolution of a synovial disease, comprising:

- i) bringing a biological sample from an individual into contact, *in vitro*, with a means for measuring a specific marker for synovial disease, said specific marker being diglycosylated pyridinoline;
- ii) determining the level of the specific marker;
- iii) comparing the level of the marker with a reference level of the specific marker ~~representing a predetermined stage in the disease,~~ wherein the reference level is a previously measured level in the same individual, the level of the marker with respect to the reference level indicating the presence of or evolution of the synovial disease.

2-13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determination of the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is carried out by an immunological technique, by immunoassay, by fluorescence, by ultraviolet spectroscopy or by electrochemical detection.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said immunological technique is a technique employing specific monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies, an ELISA technique, an immuno-enzymatic technique, an immunofluorescent technique, a radio-immunological technique or a chemo-immunological technique.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is determined by an High Performance Liquid Chromatography technique.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~in which the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is determined in~~ wherein the biological sample is a body fluid.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, ~~in which the~~ wherein said body fluid is selected from blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, sweat and synovial fluid.

20-32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing a synovial disease comprising:

- i) bringing a biological sample from an individual into contact, *in vitro*, with a means for measuring a specific marker for synovial disease, said specific marker being diglycosylated pyridinoline;
- ii) determining the level of the specific marker;
- iii) comparing the level of the marker with a reference level of the specific marker representing the absence of the disease, the an increased level of the marker with respect to the reference level indicating the presence of the synovial disease.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said determination of the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is carried out by an immunological technique, by immunoassay, by fluorescence, by ultraviolet spectroscopy or by electrochemical detection.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said immunological technique is a technique employing specific monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies, an ELISA technique, an immuno-enzymatic technique, an immunofluorescence technique, a radio-immunological technique or a chemo-immunological technique.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is

determined by an High Performance Liquid Chromatography technique.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said reference level is selected to be in the range from about 5 nmole/nmole creatinin to about 9 nmole/nmole creatinin.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, ~~in which the level of the specific marker for synovial disease is determined in~~ wherein the biological sample is a body fluid.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, ~~in which the~~ wherein said body fluid is selected from blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, sweat or synovial fluid.

40. (currently amended) A kit for diagnosing a synovial disease, comprising at least one means for measuring a specific marker for synovial disease and ~~a mention of~~ a reference level representing the absence of the disease, said specific marker for synovial disease being diglycosylated pyridinoline.